

monitoring reading technique to obtain read technique data;  
sending the item identification data and the read technique data to  
an evaluation system;

obtaining optimum read technique data;

comparing the read technique data to the optimum read  
technique data to determine an effectiveness of the reading  
technique;

providing feedback indicating the effectiveness of the reading  
technique.

*Contd*  
*A1*  
*A2*  
14. (Amended) A method according to claim 1 wherein the step  
of obtaining optimum read technique data comprises accessing a  
lookup table containing predetermined optimum read technique data  
for an item corresponding to the symbol data.

17. (Amended) A method according to claim 16 further  
comprising the steps of scanning a plurality of items and  
calculating an average dynamic weight of the plurality of items.

*A3*  
18. (Amended) A method according to claim 17 further  
comprising the step of comparing the average dynamic weight of the  
plurality of items to a predetermined average dynamic weight  
standard.

[ Please add the following claims:

37. (New) A method of optical scanning wherein an operator passes an item through a scan volume of a scanner while moving the item across a weigh scale integrated with the scanner, comprising the steps of

scanning an optical symbol on the item to obtain symbol data;

obtaining a dynamic weight of the item as the item is moved across the weigh scale;

calculating an average dynamic weight of a plurality of items scanned;

comparing the average dynamic weight of the plurality of items scanned to an average dynamic weight standard;

providing data regarding an extent of lifting to at least one of a training system and a monitoring system.

38. (New) A method according to Claim 37 further comprising the step of monitoring scanning technique with the scanner to obtain scan technique data.

39. (New) A method of optical scanning wherein an operator passes an item through the scan volume of a scanner while moving the item across a weigh scale integrated with the scanner, comprising the steps of

scanning an optical symbol on the item to obtain symbol data;  
obtaining a dynamic weight of the item as the item is moved  
across the weigh scale;

comparing the dynamic weight value to a threshold value to  
make a decision whether the item was slid across the scanner or  
lifted across the scanner;

accumulating total quantities of items slid and items lifted  
for a plurality of items scanned;

providing data regarding the relative amounts of lifting and  
of sliding to at least one of a training system and a monitoring  
system.

40. (New) A method according to Claim 39 further comprising  
the step of monitoring scanning technique with the scanner to  
obtain scan technique data.